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LETTER DATED 22 MAY 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE
OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT
OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 22 May 1998 addressed to you by Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq, concerning statements made by a former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense. The statements call for security and stability in the region to be undermined, and they reveal the hostile intentions of the United States towards Iraq.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nizar HAMDOON
Ambassador
Permanent Representative



ANNEX

Letter dated 22 May 1998 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs
of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

I should like to call your attention to statements made by Richard Perle, former United States Assistant Secretary of Defense, as reported by the Turkish weekly Aydinlik during May 1998. In those statements, particularly those relating to the replacement of the national regime, the partitioning of Iraq and the maintenance of the unjust embargo that has been imposed upon it, he confirms the political objectives of the United States and its hostile intentions towards my country.

In this connection, this United States official indicates that "the Saddam Hussein regime must be replaced". He explicitly announces the support of the United States for a new regime opposed to President Saddam Hussein and supported by those he terms "the opposition parties". This United States official urges the so-called "Iraqi opposition parties" to act against President Saddam Hussein and to liquidate President Saddam Hussein as soon as possible. He also calls for recognition of a provisional Iraqi government that exists only in the imagination of United States officials. In the context of this attempt only, he calls for the embargo to be lifted in what he terms the areas that President Saddam Hussein does not control and for their independence to be declared, for their economy to be strengthened and for their oil to flow onto world markets.

This United States official also states with shameless explicitness that the United States must support those he calls "the Iraqi opposition" and must do whatever is required for their sake. Perle says that United States legal guarantees must be provided to the clients of the United States that he terms "the Iraqi opposition", that weapons must be supplied and that a foreign air force must be formed to protect what he terms the areas that President Saddam Hussein does not control.

The former Assistant Secretary of Defense also confirms the declared United States policy with regard to the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq when he says that the embargo against Iraq must continue despite the fact that it is not sufficient to solve the problem and that the United States is continuing its policy of isolation and of maintaining the embargo. He adds that the shortest way to the lifting of the embargo is the liquidation of President Saddam Hussein as soon as possible and that, as long as the Saddam Hussein regime continues, the embargo policy will be maintained as a means of exerting pressure.

These hostile and irresponsible statements are a true expression of the enmity of the United States Administration to Iraq and of its contempt for the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, which are to be regarded as the mainstay of the system of collective international security. They are manifestly incompatible with the relevant resolutions of the Security Council, all of which stress respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq. These statements also reflect the fact that the

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sanctions regime imposed on Iraq in August 1990 was designed to achieve questionable United States objectives against Iraq.

These statements confirm that the reasons for the unjust embargo imposed on Iraq almost eight years ago do not relate to the argument that Iraq must be free of prohibited weapons or to other factors. They are purely political reasons and they relate to the dubious endeavour of the United States of America to introduce a clique made up of its clients in order to govern Iraq.

To make such statements in a country that is adjacent to Iraq is a clear incitement to a neighbouring State to engage in aggression against Iraq and to undermine security and stability in the region with a view to achieving the same hostile United States objectives.

The Government of the Republic of Iraq calls upon the Security Council to condemn the United States policy of hostility to Iraq and to intervene with the Government of the United States of America with a view to halting the policy of intimidation and incitement against a Member State and founding Member of the United Nations. It urges you to meet your responsibility to counter these actions, which are in breach of international law and the Charter of the United Nations, as they relate to the principles that should guarantee respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of Iraq.

I request circulation of this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq
